

1 **CLAIMS**

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3 1. A method comprising: ✓

4 receiving a request for content associated with a particular channel, wherein

5 the request is received from a client device;

6 identifying service information data associated with the channel;

7 determining how content associated with the channel will be provided to

8 the client device; and

9 sending instructions to the client device, wherein the instructions notify the

10 client device how to access content associated with the channel.

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12 2. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein determining how content

13 associated with the channel will be provided to the client includes a transport type

14 associated with the content.

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16 3. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein determining how content

17 associated with the channel will be provided to the client includes a codec type

18 associated with the content.

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20 4. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein determining how content

21 associated with the channel will be provided to the client includes a transport type

22 and a codec associated with the content.

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1 5. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
2 receiving a second request for content associated with a second channel,
3 wherein the second request is received from a second client device;
4 identifying service information data associated with the second channel;
5 determining how content associated with the second channel will be
6 provided to the second client device; and
7 sending second instructions to the second client device, wherein the second
8 instructions notify the second client device how to access content associated with
9 the second channel.

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11 6. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising:
12 receiving a second request for content associated with the particular
13 channel, wherein the second request is received from a second client device;
14 determining how content associated with the second channel will be
15 provided to the second client device, wherein the second format differs from the
16 first format; and
17 sending instructions to the second client device, wherein the instructions
18 notify the second client device how to access content associated with the channel.

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20 7. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein identifying service
21 information data associated with the channel includes retrieving service
22 information data from a service information server.
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1 **8.** A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the service information data
2 associated with the channel includes at least one video component associated with
3 the content.

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5 **9.** A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the service information data
6 associated with the channel includes at least one audio component associated with
7 the content.

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9 **10.** A method as recited in claim 1 wherein identifying service
10 information includes identifying an Internet protocol address associated with the
11 content.

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13 **11.** A method as recited in claim 1 wherein identifying service
14 information includes identifying a multicast address associated with the content.

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16 **12.** A method as recited in claim 1 wherein determining how content
17 associated with the channel will be provided to the client device includes
18 identifying content formats supported by the client device.

19
20 **13.** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer
21 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim
22 1.

1 **14.** A method comprising:
2 receiving a request for channel information from a client device;
3 identifying current channel information; and
4 communicating the current channel information to the client device,
5 wherein the current channel information includes data regarding channels
6 available to the client device, and wherein the client device uses the current
7 channel information to request content associated with a particular channel.

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9 **15.** A method as recited in claim 14 further comprising:
10 receiving updated channel information; and
11 communicating the updated channel information to the client device.

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13 **16.** A method as recited in claim 14 further comprising:
14 receiving updated channel information; and
15 communicating the updated channel information to a plurality of client
16 devices.

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18 **17.** A method as recited in claim 14 further comprising:
19 receiving a second request for channel information from a second client
20 device;
21 identifying current channel information; and
22 communicating the current channel information to the second client device,
23 wherein the current channel information includes data regarding channels
24 available to the second client device, and wherein the second client device uses the
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1 current channel information to request content associated with a particular
2 channel.

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4 **18.** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer
5 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim
6 14.

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8 **19.** A method comprising:
9 generating a request for current channel information;
10 receiving current channel information;
11 generating a request for content associated with a particular channel,
12 wherein the request for content includes data from the current channel information
13 associated with the particular channel;
14 receiving instructions regarding how to access content associated with the
15 particular channel; and
16 accessing the requested content based on the received instructions.

17
18 **20.** A method as recited in claim 19 wherein the received instructions
19 identify a network address associated with the requested content.

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21 **21.** A method as recited in claim 19 wherein the received instructions
22 identify an encryption format associated with the requested content.

1 22. A method as recited in claim 19 wherein the received instructions
2 identify a transport mode associated with the requested content.

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4 23. A method as recited in claim 19 further comprising:
5 generating a request for current channel information; and
6 receiving current channel information.

7
8 24. A method as recited in claim 23 wherein the client device uses the
9 current channel information to request content associated with a particular
10 channel.

11
12 25. One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a
13 computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one
14 or more processors to:

15 receive a request for content from a first client device, wherein the
16 requested content is associated with a specific channel;

17 determine a first transport type to provide the requested content to the first
18 client device;

19 receive a request for the requested content from a second client device; and
20 determine a second transport type to provide the requested content to the
21 second client device.

22
23 26. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 25
24 wherein the first transport type has an associated multicast address.
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1 **27.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 25
2 wherein the first transport type has an associated Internet protocol address.

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4 **28.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 25
5 wherein the first transport type provides the requested data in a first encryption
6 format and the second transport type provides the requested data in a second
7 encryption format.

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9 **29.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 25
10 wherein the first transport type provides the requested data in an MPEG format.

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12 **30.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 25
13 wherein the first transport type provides the requested data in a Windows Media
14 technologies player format.

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16 **31.** An apparatus comprising:
17 a service information server to store service information data associated
18 with a plurality of video channels; and
19 a video router coupled to the service information server, the video router to
20 receive requests to tune a particular video channel, the video router further to
21 request service information data from the service information server wherein the
22 requested service information data is associated with the requested video channel,
23 and wherein the video router further determines how to provide the requested
24 content to the requesting device based on the service information data.
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1 **32.** An apparatus as recited in claim 31 wherein the service information
2 data includes available video quality formats.

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4 **33.** An apparatus as recited in claim 31 wherein the service information
5 data includes available language formats.

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7 **34.** An apparatus as recited in claim 31 wherein the service information
8 data includes transport information associated with the requested video channel.

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10 **35.** An apparatus as recited in claim 31 wherein the video router is
11 coupled to a data communication network to receive video channel requests and to
12 send data to the requesting device.